

**THE CITY OF BATTLEFIELD  
BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES  
JANUARY 17, 2012**

**Item 1 Call to order**

Mayor Kruse brought the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall in Battlefield, Missouri. Aldermen in attendance were as follows: Shawn Billings, Mike Goldenberg, Scott Anderson, Carolyn Poole, and Debra Hickey. Alderman Absent: Stephen Esterline. Staff present: City Administrator Rick Hess, City Attorney Jim Kelly, Police Chief David Vallely, Police Officer Cindy Sweaney and City Clerk Beth Anne West.

**Item 2 Ceremonial Matters**

Mike Davis, the Retired Pastor from the Assembly of God Church in Battlefield gave the opening prayer. Alderman Billings gave the pledge of allegiance.

**Item 3 Announcements**

Mayor Kruse invited everyone to attend the public meetings to comment on the Springfield Plateau Regional Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment with the closest meeting to be held on January 30<sup>th</sup> in Springfield, Missouri at the Library Center from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

**Item 4 Mayor Updates**

Mayor Kruse mentioned the Missouri Municipal League-Legislative Conference to be held on February on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> in Jefferson City, Missouri. Mayor Kruse noted that neither he nor Mr. Hess had discussed attending the event, but it might be a possibility for one of the Board or either he or Mr. Hess might attend the event.

**Item 5 City Administrator Updates**

City Administrator Rick Hess mentioned the recent receipt of the sales taxes for the month of December and noted the following: Transportation: up 17% over December 2010 and up 12% year to date, General Fund: up 23% over December 2010 and up 11% year to date. Mr. Hess noted that filing for candidacy ended today at 5 p.m. and that all positions that were available had been signed up for and that the only challenger in the race was former Ward III Alderman Darrin Snodgrass who would be running against incumbent Debra Hickey for Alderman of Ward III. Mr. Hess noted House Bill #1275 was up for approval and would prohibit the re-submission of ballot issues in certain instances for a four year period. Mr. mentioned how that could affect issues like the Sales Tax issue the City is to place on this April's ballot for funds for the Police Department. Mr. Hess noted if this were passed then the City would have to wait 4 years if the issue did not pass by a vote of at least 60 % of the qualified voters. Mr. Hess provided the Board with contacts to our state representatives so our opinion of the matter could be heard. Mr. Hess mentioned that Max Gasaway had resigned his position on the Board of Adjustments and that a replacement would need to be approved because the Board of Adjustments may need to meet in the near future. City Administrator Rick Hess introduced Officer Cindy Sweaney who handled the recent DWI Grant to give an accounting and how it affects the City. Officer Sweaney noted she came on the program near the end because the previous officer left the employ of the City and noted the purpose of the grant was to fund the hours of patrolling for the City which equaled in the amount of \$2,026.40 received by the Missouri Department of Highway Safety Division Grant. Mr. Hess outlined an option to be provided in the future by the Springfield-Greene County Emergency Management Office where they would provide services to smaller cities that do not have the finances to hire their own EMA Manager such as Ash Grove, Strafford,

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Willard, and Battlefield. Mr. Hess added that at present the City has a volunteer to serve as the EMA Director. Mr. Hess noted Greene County could write an Emergency Operations Plan suited for the City, provide training to Staff and the Board of Aldermen and assist with Mitigation Planning. Mr. Hess noted the cost per person in the City would be \$3.00 with an annual cost of approximately \$16,770.00.

**Item 6 Fire Chief Updates**

Battlefield Fire Protection District Chief Bryan Newberry noted that as of January 10<sup>th</sup> the District closed out the 2011 budget and they follow the calendar year. Chief Newberry stated they had reaffirmed the budget for the remainder of the year. Chief Newberry briefed the Board on the remodeling of Station #2 and that some new hires would begin by the end of January 2012. Chief Newberry stated he would be preparing the 2011 report to be provided at later date. Chief Newberry mentioned the new policy they were proposed for Awards and Recognition in their organization.

**Item 7 Adoption and Approval of Consent Agenda**

Motion was made by Alderman Billings to adopt and approve the Consent Agenda items a-i. including the following items: December 20, 2011 regular session minutes; Bills paid in the amount of \$29,809.22; Bills to approve in the amount of \$42,207.93; Committee and employee reports; July 2011 Amended Income Statement; August 2011 Amended Income Statement; September 2011 bank reconciliations; September 2011 financials; October 2011 bank reconciliations; October 2011 financials; November 2011 bank reconciliations; November 2011 financials; December 2011 bank reconciliations; December 2011 financials. Motion was seconded by Alderman Hickey. A roll call vote was taken and the vote was 5 Ayes-Debra Hickey aye, Carolyn Poole aye, Scott Anderson aye, Mike Goldenberg aye, and Shawn Billings aye. 0 Nays. Alderman Esterline was absent for the vote. Motion approved.

**Item 8 Public Input**

None.

**Item 9 Unfinished Business**

None.

**Item 10 a Discussion of Fire District Tax Levy for April 2012 Election.**

Presentation was provided by Battlefield Fire Protection District Chief Bryan Newberry outlining the needs of the District referencing the boundaries and noting Battlefield is the fastest growing city in the area with a growth rate of 42%. Chief Newberry stressed the need for the newer equipment since the current equipment is aged and could begin to fail costing the district more in repair costs. Chief Newberry stated with the increase in funding the ISO rating could be reviewed which, would lower citizens home insurance rates therefore balancing out the increase in the Tax levy. Chief Newberry noted that increasing the staff would increase response times and help them to address several calls at once. Chief Newberry gave a timeline of what would occur if the levy is approved. Chief Newberry asked for the City's support on the Tax Levy issue.

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**Item 10 b Discussion and Possible Vote to Approve Amendment to Sign Ordinance.**

City Administrator Rick Hess noted the City had been working on amendments to the Sign Ordinance in the last year with respect to a Sign Overlay District and noted the area this encompassed to offer the ability to have larger signs than the current ordinance allows. Mr. Hess noted he was asking the Board to grant him the authorization to forward these proposed changes to the Sign Ordinance to the City Attorney so; the City Attorney could draft the amendment and present the finished product to the Board in a future meeting. Motion was made by Alderman Goldenberg to direct the City Attorney to move forward with the amendment to the Sign Ordinance. Motion was seconded by Alderman Anderson. A roll call vote was taken and the vote was 5 Ayes-Shawn Billings aye, Mike Goldenberg aye, Scott Anderson aye, Carolyn Poole aye, and Debra Hickey aye. 0 Nays. Alderman Esterline was absent for the vote. Motion approved.

**Item 10 c Discussion and Possible Vote to Accept Resignation of Max Gasaway, Board of Adjustments member.**

City Administrator Rick Hess noted Mr. Max Gasaway had provided a written notice of his desire to resign his position as a member of the Board of Adjustments. Mayor Kruse asked for the Board to consider this request. Motion was made by Alderman Billings to accept resignation of Max Gasaway from the Board of Adjustments. Motion was seconded by Alderman Hickey. A roll call vote was taken and the vote was 5 Ayes-Debra Hickey aye, Carolyn Poole aye, Scott Anderson aye, Mike Goldenberg aye, and Shawn Billings aye. 0 Nays. Alderman Esterline was absent for the vote. Motion approved.

**Item 10 d Discussion and Possible Vote to Place Paul Engel on the Board of Adjustments.**

City Administrator Rick Hess noted with the recent vacancy and the need to fill the position to provide for possible future meetings of the Board of Adjustments and an application had been received from Mr. Paul Engel. Mayor Kruse asked the Board to affirm his recommendation to place Mr. Paul Engel on the Board of Adjustments. Motion was made by Alderman Hickey to Affirm Paul Engel to the Board of Adjustments as recommended by Mayor Kruse. Motion was seconded by Alderman Goldenberg. A roll call vote was taken and the vote was 5 Ayes- Debra Hickey aye, Carolyn Poole aye, Scott Anderson aye, Mike Goldenberg aye, and Shawn Billings aye. 0 Nays. Alderman Esterline was absent for the vote. Motion approved.

**Item 10 e Discussion of Addition to Personnel Manual or Creation of an Ordinance Stating that Employees' Raises may only be approved by Board of Aldermen after Completion and Submission of Employee Evaluations to the Board of Aldermen.**

Mayor Kruse asked for discussion on this topic to build consistency on when and how often the employee evaluations are done and to get them completed before the next budget is formulated to including any raises. Mayor Kruse wanted to discuss whether an ordinance would be needed to do so or a simple motion to set a policy change based on the result of their discussion. City Attorney Jim Kelly explained that change would not require an ordinance since Missouri is considered an "At Will" state. Discussion followed on when to hold the evaluations to meet the deadline for the budget and to do the most good for the employees. Motion was made by

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